

Conservation News



Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne
Public Works & Utilities Department ~ Environmental Community Outreach Division

Annual Indian River Lagoon Day November 6

The annual Indian River Lagoon Day will be held Sunday, November 6 at Front Street Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme is "Conservation-Protection-Education."

This free event includes numerous environmental exhibitors that will bring the spotlight on the importance of protecting the lagoon.

There will be games for children, including Habitat Hopscotch, Don't Feed the Storm Drain, EnviroWheel, Create Your Own Rain Gauge, and Stormwater Consequences Bracelet making. There will also be musical entertainment by various soloists and duets throughout the day.

Exhibitors, so far, include the following:

- A Day Away Kayaks



Beautiful Front Street Park.

- All Wildlife Rescue
- Brevard County Extension Office
- Brevard County Natural Resources
- Brevard County Parks
- Brevard Zoo
- Canaveral National Seashore
- City of Melbourne Environmental Community Outreach Division
- City of Palm Bay Stormwater Division

- Florida Aquatic Preserves
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- FIT Mobile Lab
- Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program
- Melbourne High School Biology Class
- Native Plant Society
- Smithsonian Marine Station

Attendees can purchase food, drinks and snacks from the following vendors:

- Art's BBQ
- Big John's Services (fried seafood, snow cones, candy and popcorn)
- Island Creamery (ice cream, hamburgers and soda)
- Mr. J's Ice Cream (ice cream, hot dogs, chips, soda, candy)

Dog friendly-parks welcoming new pet waste stations

Melbourne is a dog-friendly City, welcoming our best-loved friends, on leashes, at 35 parks. Seventeen of the more heavily-used parks are in the process of having 31 pet-waste stations installed.

Pet waste, when not picked up, pollutes the Indian River Lagoon and other local water bodies during rain events, where it is washed into storm drains that flow directly into them. One gram of dog feces contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria.

These stations will make it easier for dog walkers to pick

up after their pets by providing convenient bags people can use, with a trash can next to them to deposit the bags in.

- One at Eau Gallie Square, 1453 Highland Avenue
- One at Ballard Park, 924 Thomas Barbour Drive
- Two at Front Street Park, 2210 Front Street
- One at Bean Park, 1208 E. Melbourne Avenue
- One at Holmes Park, 914 Melbourne Avenue
- One at Promenade Park, 1005 E. Melbourne Avenue
- Four at Wells Park, 635 Hibiscus Blvd.
- One at Pineapple Park, 1521 Pineapple Avenue
- One at the Eau Gallie Pier
- Four at Lipscomb Park, 3316 Monroe Street
- Three at Jimmy Moore Park, 2801 Sarno Road
- Three at Southwest Park, 401 W. Florida Avenue
- One at Rossitar Park
- One at Ruffner Park, 2401 Ruffner Road
- Three at Fee Avenue Park, 1609 Babcock Street
- One at Sherwood Park, 2479 Post Road
- Two at Crane Field Park, 1550 Mosswood Drive



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City modifies long-standing toilet rebate program

The City is in its 13th year of providing rebates to individual water customers who change out their old toilets with new water conserving models. This year, however, there is a new twist to the program.

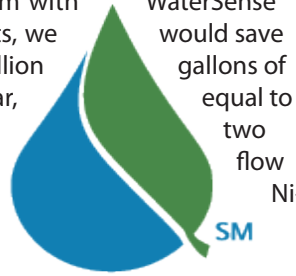
Only WaterSense certified toilets are allowed. This is a program developed by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for water conserving plumbing fixtures, similar to the agency's EnergyStar program for energy savings appliances. The City of Melbourne is a WaterSense partner, along with hundreds of other local governmental agencies and utilities.

There are more than 880 labeled toilet models that have earned the WaterSense label. To earn this designation, they have to go through a rigorous process of certification. As such, products bearing this label perform as well or better than their less efficient counterparts; are 20 percent more water efficient than average products in the category; achieve water savings through several technology options; and obtain independent, third-party certification.

Over the course of a lifetime, a per-

son will normally flush the toilet nearly 140,000 times. By replacing an older toilet with a WaterSense labeled model, 4,000 gallons of water can be saved with this simpler, greener choice. EPA estimates that a family of four will on average save more than \$90 per year and \$2,000 over the lifetime of the toilet.

According to the EPA, if every American home with older, inefficient toilets replaced them with WaterSense labeled toilets, we would save nearly 640 billion gallons of water per year, equal to two weeks of flow over the Niagara Falls.



EPA WaterSense PARTNER

labeled toilets are available at a wide variety of price points and a broad range of styles. Labeled products are listed at www.epa.gov/watersense/products/index.html

In addition to toilets, there are more than 2,800 labeled faucets and faucet

aerators; 390 labeled shower heads; and 47 labeled flushing urinals.

Participation in Melbourne's toilet rebate program is on a first come, first served basis until funding for the current fiscal year is depleted.

Toilets being replaced must have been installed prior to 1994; there is only one rebate per individual residential account; along with other stipulations. The rebate amount is \$50.

Log on to the City's website at www.melbourneflorida.org/watercon/retrofit.htm for the rules of the program and print out an application. Applicants can also receive the application packet by calling the City's ECO Division at 321-953-6302. The completed application must include the original sales receipt, the

UPC bar code label from the box which includes model information, and the WaterSense label from the box.

For more information about the WaterSense program and abundant information about water conservation, please visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

Bags on Board given out at successful Paws in the Park event at Wickham Park

The City passed out 224 Bags on Board at the ninth annual Paws in the Park, held on October 22 at the Wickham Park pavilion.

Bags on Board are containers of plastic baggies that attach to dogs leashes for easy pet pickup. By using these bags, dog owners are not only being neighbor-friendly, but also environmentally

friendly by keeping waste from entering the stormwater system and ultimately,

the Indian River Lagoon.

Approximately 300 people and their dogs attended the event, which featured a quarter mile dog walk, Halloween costume contest, pet/companion look-a-like contest and best pet



Jennifer Thompson (left) and Jennifer Wilster of the City's Environmental Community Outreach Division pass out Bags on Board. Brief surveys were filled out first.

trick. There was also a vendor village, entertainment and food.

Florida-friendly workshops held

The City of Melbourne, in conjunction with the Brevard County Extension Office and the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program recently held a series of three Florida Friendly Landscaping workshops. Not only do these techniques help homeowners save time, money and labor on their yards, they also help protect the Indian River Lagoon.

Many useful websites were provided, including the following:

- » www.floridaswater.com/waterwiselandscapes/index.html
- » <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/recognitions.htm>
- » <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment>
- » www.melbourneflorida.org/stormwater
- » www.melbourneflorida.org/watercon/publications.htm